Production of Bio-diesel by IOC

644. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation is contemplating to enter into production of bio-diesel through Jatropha;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the various stages from plantation to marketing in which the Indian Oil Corporation would be involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), through its R&D Centre is examining the complete value chain of Biodiesel thorough IOC. This covers IOC plantation, technology for biodiesel production, setting up of quality control labs, emission studies and field trials. IOC has also set-up biodiesel purchase centers as well as a group to study the economic viability of biodiesel producton through IOC. Details of various biodiesel related activties undertaken by IOC are annexed as Statement.

Statement

Details of Bio-diesel related activities undertaken by IOC

(a) Development of Bio-diesel trans-esterification technology

IOC (R&D) has examined and optimized the synthetic processes for the preparation of bio-diesel from various vegetable oils, which include oils from Rice bran, Jatropha curcas, Palm, Karanjia and Sunflower etc. The process has been scaled up to pilot plant level.

The developed technology was transferred to M/s Venus Ethoxyethers, Goa on non-exclusive basis and on nominal technology fee and royalty sharing mechanism.

(b) Jatropha plantation on railway land at Surendra Nagar

IOC has entered into a MoU with Indian Railways to study complete value chain of Bio-diesel. In line with that, IOC has taken up plantation on 70 hectares of Railway land at Surendra Nagar in Gujarat. More than One lakh saplings of Jatropha have been planted at the site. This project is one of its kind in the country, where every aspect of Jatropha Bio-diesel would be studied.

(c) IOC (R&D) has conducted field trials with various blends of jatropha bio-diesel in diesel on railway locos and commercials vehicles.

Import of LPG

†645. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to meet the supply of demand for LPG in the country, Government imported LPG apart from the indigenous production;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the volume of LPG imported in order to meet the demand of the country during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and from April to September in 2006-07 respectively; and

(d) the volume of LPG obtained through indigenous production during the above period individually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details of import of LPG by public sector oil companies and indigenous production during 2004-05, 2005-06 and April to September, 2006 was as follows:

(Qty.in TMT)

Period	Indigenous Production	Import
2004-05	7817	2068
2005-06	7526	2449
Apr-Sept' 06	4103	737